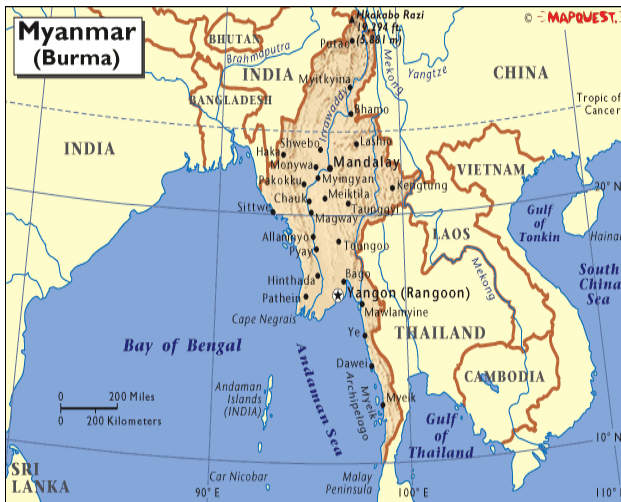
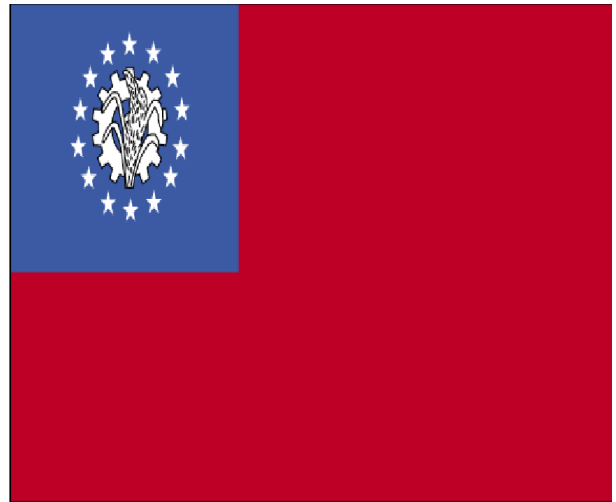


# BURMESE FAMILIARIZATION COURSE

## Introduction to Burma (Myanmar)



Map of Burma



Burmese national flag

Burma, which is now called Union of Myanmar by the Burmese military government, is a country lying along the eastern coasts of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea in Southeast Asia. It is twice the size of Vietnam and close to the size of the US state of Texas. It is the largest country in the South-East Asian Peninsula and shares borders with Bangladesh and India on the west and southwest, and China, Laos and Thailand on the east, northeast, and southeast. The country covers an area of 677,000 square kilometers (261,228 square miles) ranging 936 kilometers (581 miles) from east to west and 2,051 kilometers (1,275 miles) from north to south. It is a land of hills and valleys and is rimmed in the north, east and west by mountain ranges. The length of contiguous frontier is 6,159 kilometers. The total length of the Burma-Bangladesh boundary is 271 kilometers (168.7 miles). The total length of the Burma-China boundary is 2,204 kilometers (1,370 miles); Burma-Thailand 2,107 kilometers (1,309.8 miles); Burma-India 1,338 kilometers (831.8 miles); and Burma-Laos 238 kilometers (147.9 miles).

## **Climate**

Burma experiences the effects of the Monsoon in different parts of the country. Temperatures vary from 38 C to 19 C and humidity from 82.8% to 66% depending on the area of the country. Extremes of temperature are rare. The directions of winds and depression bring rain, and it is always heavy in the coastal areas during monsoon season.

Burma has three distinctive seasons, namely, the hot season (March to May with average temperatures of 30-35C), the rainy season (June to October with average temperatures of 25-30C), and the cool season (November to February with average temperatures of 20-24C). These different seasons are created by seasonal changes in the monsoon wind directions.

## **Geography**

Three parallel chains of mountain ranges run from north to south in Burma: the Western Yoma (aka Rakhine Yoma), the Bago Yoma and the Shan Plateau. According to these mountain chains and river systems, the country can be divided into seven major topographic regions: the Northern Hills, the Western Hills, the Shan plateau, the Central Belt, the Lower Myanmar Delta, the Rakhine Coastal Region and Tanintharyi Coastal Strip.

The mountains in Burma have their origin in the Himalayan mountain range. The peak of the Hkakabo-Razi at 5,881 meters (18,000 feet) is the highest in South-East Asia.

There are four major rivers in Burma: Ayeyarwaddy, Chindwin, Sittaung, and Thanlwin. Burma has some semi-desert areas in the middle part of the country. Rainfall in such areas, e.g. Bagan and Mandalay, is very low, even in the rainy season.

## **Population**

The current population in Burma is 42,642,000 according to the 2006 Burma census. Seventy percent of the population may be considered poor in Burma. The only affluent citizens are officers of the army and those who have connections with military officials. The rate of literacy is very high in Burma. About eighty three percent can read and write in Burmese. But the level of education has been going down since 1964 after the military government declared Burmese as the sole medium of instruction in all higher education except engineering and medical schools. About forty percent of the population is college educated, but those college graduates normally do not work in the fields where they have been trained.

## Government

The current leader of Burma is Senior General Than Shwe. There are about twenty political parties in Burma. But these parties are not allowed to exercise their rights such as freedom of speech, freedom to assemble, and freedom to advocate their political ideologies.

Burma has been ruled by a military government since 1988. In the 1990s an election was held. The National League for Democracy (NLD) party, the party of Aung San Suu Kyi, won that election. But the military government did not honor the result of the election. Instead, many members of the NLD have been arrested and imprisoned, and Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house-arrest until now. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won the Rafto Prize and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1990 and in 1991 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her peaceful and non-violent struggle under a repressive military dictatorship.



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Senior General Than Shwe

## History

The Burmese, often recorded in history as the "Mranma," seem to have appeared on the plains of Upper Burma early in the ninth century. According to Chinese sources, the name "Mranma" was recorded as "mian" which survives in the modern Mandarin Chinese name for Burma, namely "mian dian" (Wheatley 1982:2). In modern colloquial Burmese, both မြန်မာ *myan-ma* and ဗမာ *ba-ma* are used interchangeably for the word "Burmese."

The history of Burma dates back to the early 11th century when king Anawrahta unified the country and founded the First Burmese Empire in Bagan. The Second Burmese Empire was founded in the mid 16th century by King Bayinnaung. King Alaungpaya

founded the last Burmese dynasty in 1752. Myanmar became a British colony after three Anglo-Burmese Wars in 1825, 1852 and 1885. During the Second World War, Burma was occupied by the Japanese from 1942 until the return of the Allied Forces in 1945. Burma regained its Independence on January 4, 1948 under the leadership of General Aung San (the father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi).

Burma enjoyed a system of democratic government from 1948 till 1962 when General Ne Win took power. The Burmese Way of Socialism was created to disguise the military rule of Burma for many decades. Because of the people upheaval, in support of a democratic governmental system, the military took over the power of the State again in 1988.

At present, Burma is considered one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to human right violations.

### **Foreign/U.S. Relations**

The present Burmese military government does not have a good relationship with western democratic nations. In fact, the United States proposed to put the human rights situation in Burma on the agenda of UN Security Council. Along with the US, other countries voting in favor of putting Myanmar on the Council agenda were Argentina, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On September 15, 2006, the United Nations Security Council voted (10 votes to four with one abstention) to focus on the situation in Myanmar (Burma). Ten nations, including the United States, voted in favor of adding Myanmar to the Council agenda, while China, Russia, Qatar and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) voted against it. Tanzania abstained.

### **Economy**

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy in Burma. However, Burma possesses substantial resources in both oil and minerals. High quality jade has been available in Kachin state far to the north, while rubies are still to be found along the upper western edge of the Shan plateau. The northern Shan states also contain silver, nickel, and lead deposits in commercial quantities.

Non-mineral resources include valuable timbers. Teakwood has been a major export in Burma. The most valuable animal resources in Burma are oxen and water buffalo, useful for plowing and land transportation. Many oxen are bred locally, and trained elephants usually handle the felled timber. The economy of Burma has been stifled by many economic sanctions imposed by the United States government and its allies, which ban exports from Burma.

## Religion

Over eighty percent of the population are Buddhists in Burma. There are also Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Animists. An unofficial estimate is as follows: Buddhist 89%, Christian 4% (Baptist 3%, Roman Catholic 1%), Muslim 4%, animist 1%, and other 2%. The military government routinely engages in the repression of non-Buddhist religions. As a result, many ethnic minorities in Burma who happen to be non-Buddhists have fled the country in search of religious freedom. Repression of the Burmese Buddhists because of political affiliation also is rampant in Burma.



The famous golden Shwedagon pagoda

## Ethnic Groups

Burma has several ethnic groups. The major ones include Burman, Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Mon and Shan.



Burman



Rakhine

Ethnic Burmans are the majority in the country, constituting about seventy percent of the entire population. This group is concentrated largely in the central valley and delta areas. The Rakhines, the closest relatives of the Burmans live in the Rakhine State, the southwest part of Burma.





Chin

Kachin

The Chin group occupies the northwest mountainous areas of Burma, called Chin State. There are about 15-20 languages among the Chin group. Although these are distinct languages, they are closely related to one another.

The Kachins live in the northern part of Burma, called Kachin State. They are also found in some parts of Shan State, and Yunnan which is a Chinese territory.

The most numerous ethnic minority group in Burma are the Karens, composed of two principal language communities, the Pwo and Sgaw. Karens are found in the delta area, Shan State, and Karen State.

The Kayahs, the closest relatives of the Karens live in Kayah State in the southeast part of Burma.



Kayah



Karen

The Shan peoples of northern Burma and the eastern plateau region are kinsmen of the northern Tai. They live mainly in Shan State.



Shan



Mon



The once ruling Mon inhabitants of lower Burma, who entered the region from several centuries B.C., have been the tutors of politically dominant Burmans in literature, religion, architecture, and government. This group is mainly found in the Mon State today.

## **Culture**

The people in Burma have been known for their generosity and hospitality. Respect to the elders, monks, and priests, is a shared value in Burma. A typical Burmese usually possesses a lively sense of humor, and is not easily taken in or deceived.

Burmese are also very fond of festivals and sporting events. An example is the Thingyan, also known as The Water Festival. Among the many festivals in Burma, Thingyan is one of the few observed festivals all over the country. Thingyan welcomes the Burmese New Year by washing away the dirt of the body and bad memories of the old year. The word Thingyan comes from a Sanskrit word meaning “the passing of the sun from Pisces into Aries.” The day of Thagyamin's ascent marks the beginning of the Myanmar New Year, and usually falls at the end of the second week of April.



A scene that shows the celebration of the Thingyan Water Festival.

## **Family**

The traditional Burmese family is neither patriarchal nor matriarchal. Traditionally and historically, the Burmese woman has been an almost equal partner of her husband. Although there is a strong cultural tendency for the wife to be respectful to her husband, in any marriage it is always the person of stronger personality or character who leads the household. Economics play a key role in shaping the dynamics of marriage partners, especially now when both husband and wife usually work to support the family. Economics is the main reason also, why grandparents live with their married children and

grandchildren, and why grown children usually live with their parents. The wife usually controls the family purse-strings, supervises buying and selling, assists in planting and harvesting routines, and runs the household generally. Women can hope to be born as men in the next transmigration, while making the best of their current existence in a very practical fashion.

## Foods



coconut noodles (soup)



fish noodle soup

There are several foods which distinctly belong to the Burmese people. Such foods include မုန့် ဟင်း ခါး *moun.-hin:-ga*: 'fish noodle soup', one of the main dishes eaten as breakfast countrywide, အုန်း နို့ ခေါက် ဆွဲ *oun:-nou.-hkau'-hswe*: 'coconut noodles', and လက် သုပ် *la-hpe'-thou* 'pickled tea-leaves salad'.



A serve of pickled tea-leaves salads

## Art

Art has been closely intertwined with religion and royalty in Burmese history. Temples, pagodas and palaces have displayed the artistic skills of painters, wood carvers and sculptures. Temples and pagodas were traditionally built of brick and many are still standing. Art and architecture, which relied on royal support, faded when the last royal kingdom collapsed. Although court culture has been extinguished, popular street-level culture is vibrant and thriving. Drama is the mainstay of this culture, and just about any celebration is a good excuse for a *pwe* (show). Performances may recount Buddhist legends, or be more light-hearted entertainments involving slapstick comedy, dance, ensemble singing or giant puppets. Burmese music is an integral part of a *pwe*; it originates from Siam (Thailand) and emphasizes rhythm and melody. Instruments are predominantly percussive and include drums, boat-shaped harps, gongs and bamboo flutes.

There are 10 Burmese traditional Arts which are metaphorically called "Ten Flowers," namely, ပန်းပဲ *ba-be*: (the art of blacksmith), ပန်းပု *ba-bu*. (the art of sculpture), ပန်းထိမ် *ba-dein* (the art of gold and silver smith), ပန်းတင်္ဂြို *ba-din*: (the art of bronze casting), ပန်းတော့ *ba-do*. (the art of making floral designs using masonry), ပန်းရန် *ba-yan* (the art of bricklaying and masonry), ပန်းတမော့ *pan:-ta-mo*. (the art of sculpting with stones), ပန်းပွတ် *pan:-bu'* (the art of turning designs on the lathe), ပန်းချီ *ba-ji* (the art of painting), and ပန်းယွန်း *pan:-yun*: (the art of making lacquer ware). These arts have been passed on from one century to another. Some examples with pictures are given below:



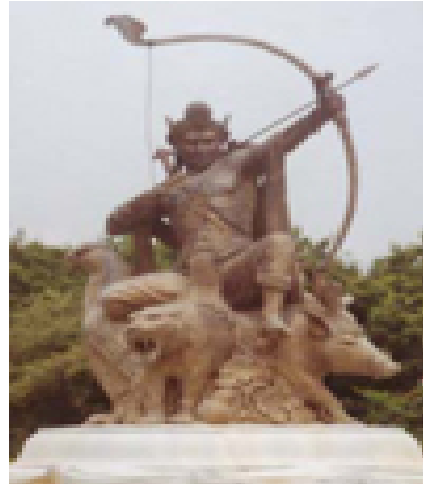
The art of sculpture



The art of gold and silver smith



The art of sculpting with stones




The art of bricklaying and masonry



## Language

Burmese belongs to the Lolo-Burmese subgroup of the Tibeto-Burman language family, ultimately affiliated with Chinese in the Sino-Tibetan stock. Burmese is one of the principal literary languages of Tibeto-Burman with an extensive written record. The first attested written record in Burmese was *Myacedi* Stone Inscription (မြ စေ တီ ကျောက် စာ mya.-zei-di kyau'-sa) dated 1113 A.D. (Burmese year 474).

1. Original Stone Inscription	2. Transcription (1 <sup>st</sup> 14 lines)
 <p>ပုံ ၃၆၄ က။ မြင်းကဝါ ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာကြီး။ မြတ်တို့၊ မြန်မာ၊ စာရင်း ၅၀</p>	<p>မြစေတီကျောက်စာ၊ မြန်မာ။ (ရာဇကျမာရကျောက်စာ)။ သက္ကရာဇ် ၄၇၄-ခု၊ (ပုဂံမြို့၊ မြင်းကပါရွာ မြစေတီဘုရားမြောက်ဘက်ကပ်လျက် ကုလား ကျောင်းခံစေတီငယ်တစ်ဆူ၏ မျက်နှာဘက်၌ စတင်တွေ့ရှိ၍ ယခု ပုဂံမြို့တိုက် ကျောက်တိုင်အမှတ် ၁၀-ဖြစ်သည်။)</p> <p>၁ «ဇြိ» ခုမော ဗုဒ္ဓါယ။ ပုရှာသွင် သာသနာ အနှစ် တ ၂ စံထားင် မြောက်ရွာ နှစ်ဆာယ ဟေတ်နှစ် လောနီ ၃ လိယံဇြိရက။ ကျယ် အစိုမဒ္ဒနပုရ မည်သူ ပြည် ၄ နှိုက်အာ။ ဇြိ ဇြိ ဘဝနာဒိတျ ဓမ္မရာဇ် မည်သူ မ ၅ င် ဖြစ်အော်။ ထိပ်မင်အော် ပါယ်မယာ တ ၆ စံယောက်သူက ဤလောကဝဋ်သက ဒေဝီ ၇ မည်အော်။ ထိပ်ပါယ်မယာ သာတမုလေဟ် ရာဇ ၈ ကမာရ် မည်အော်။ ထိပ်မင်က ကျောက်သုံရွှေဟ် ၉ တေဟ် ပါယ်မယာအာ ပိယံအော်။ ထိပ်ပါယ်မ ၁၀ ယာ ညီခရက။ ထိပ်ပါယ်မယာ တန်ဆာနှင့် ထိ ၁၁ ဝ်ကျောက်သုံရွှေဟ် သုန္တတေဟ် ထိပ်ပါယ်မယာ ၁၂ သာ အသာ ရာဇကျမာရ် မည်သောအာ မင်ပိယံတုံ ၁၃ အော်။ ထိပ်မင် အနှစ် နှစ်ဆာယ ဟေတ်နှစ် မင်မျူဇြိရ ၁၄ ဖြစ်အော် သိယံခမျူနာ သုရွှေဝဋ်နှိုက်တေဟ်။ ထိပ်ရာဇကျ=</p> <p>* ဂံယဝ-၂၀၉၊ ၂၁၁။ စာရင်း-၅၂။ တိုင်းရင်း-စ-၃၆၁/၁။ မြန်မာပြည် ကျောက်စာများ အတွဲ-၁၊ အမှတ်-၁။</p>

Myacedi Stone Inscription of 1113 A.D.

Burmese is spoken as a first language by ethnic Burmans who constitute about two thirds of the population, and as a second language by all the other ethnic groups in Burma such as Akha, Chinsese, Chin, Indian, Kachin, Karen, Lahu, Lisu, Mon, Naga, Palaung, Shan, Wa, etc. to name a few. It is the sole official language of the country.

## Writing System

According to the Myanmar-English Dictionary (MED), the Burmese writing system was developed from the Brāhmi script which flourished in India from about 500 B.C. to 300 A.D. (MED: iv).

Traditionally, thirty three initial consonants in Burmese have been established by “Burmese Primer” (မြန်မာ သင် ပုန်းကြီး: *myan-ma thin-boun:-ji:*). Myanmar-English Dictionary describes Burmese Primer as shown below (MED:viii):

1 က k	2 ခ hk	3 ဂ g	4 ဃ g	5 င ng
6 စ s	7 ဆ hs	8 ဇ z	9 ည z	10 ဉ ny
11 တ t	12 ထ ht	13 သ d	14 ဗ dh	15 ဏ n
16 တ t	17 ထ ht	18 ဒ d	19 ဓ d	20 န n
21 ပ p	22 ဖ hp	23 ဗ b	24 ဆ b	25 မ m
	26 ယ y	27 ရ y	28 လ l	29 ဝ w
	30 ထ th	31 ဟ h	32 ဠ l	33 အ a

The consonants in the third row (number 11-15) are used mainly for Pali loan words. The consonant ဠ (number 32) which is usually called လကြီး: *la.-ji:* "big letter L" is seldom used in Burmese.

In the Burmese Familiarization Course, we follow modern linguistic descriptions of colloquial Burmese such as Soe 1999, Okell 1969, and Wheatley 1982.

## *Initial Consonants*

### *Labial stops*

⌡	p	plain voiceless bilabial stop; like medial <i>p</i> in English <i>spin</i> .
⌢	hp	aspirated voiceless bilabial stop; like initial <i>p</i> in English <i>pin</i> .
⌡/⌢	b	voiced bilabial stop; like <i>b</i> in English <i>bit</i> .

### *Alveolar stops*

⌡	t	plain voiceless alveolar stop; like medial <i>t</i> in English <i>stop</i> .
⌢	ht	aspirated voiceless alveolar stop; like initial <i>t</i> in English <i>top</i> .
⌡/⌢	d	voiced alveolar stop; like <i>d</i> in English <i>dot</i> .

### *Velar stops*

⌡	k	plain voiceless velar stop; like medial <i>k</i> in English <i>skin</i> .
⌢	hk	aspirated voiceless velar stop; like initial <i>k</i> in English <i>kinship</i> .
⌡	g	voiced velar stop; like <i>g</i> in English <i>get</i> .

### *Glottal stop*

⌚	unmarked	glottal stop; like <i>h</i> in English <i>ah! a!</i>
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### *Dental fricative*

⌡	th	voiceless dental fricative; like <i>th</i> in English <i>thin</i> .
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### *Alveolar fricatives*

⌡	s	plain alveolar fricative; like <i>s</i> in English <i>see</i> .
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ჲ      hs      aspirated alveolar fricative;  
no English equivalence. Many native speakers pronounce this sound like  
Ⓢ *s*.

ჳ/ჴ      z      voiced alveolar fricative;  
like *z* in English *zone*.

#### *Alveola-palatal fricative*

ჶ      sh      alveo-palatal fricative;  
like *s* in English *ship*.

#### *Glottal fricative*

ჷ      h      glottal fricative;  
like *h* in English *hat*.

#### *Palatal affricate*

ჸ/ჹ      c      plain palatal affricate;  
like *c* in Italian *ciò*.

ჺ/჻      hc      voiceless palatal affricate;  
like *ch* in English *chin*.

ჼ      j      voiced palatal affricate;  
like *j* in English *jump*.

#### *Labial nasals*

ჽ      m      bilabial nasal;  
like *m* in English *man*.

ჿ      hm      voiceless bilabial nasal;  
no English equivalent. In the pronunciation of this sound, the breath  
expelled quietly through the nose just before the *m* sound begins.

#### *Alveolar nasals*

ჾ      n      alveolar nasal;  
like *n* in English *noun*.

ჿ      hn      voiceless alveolar nasal;  
no English equivalent. In the pronunciation of this sound, the breath  
expelled quietly through the nose just before the *n* sound begins.



### *Palatal nasals*

ဉ	ny	palatal nasal; no English equivalent.
ဉ့	hny	voiceless palatal nasal; no English equivalent. In the pronunciation of this sound, the breath expelled quietly through the nose just before the <i>hny</i> sound begins.

### *Velar nasals*

င	ng	velar nasal; like <i>ng</i> in English <i>sing</i> . Note that this sound only appears in English as a final consonant.
င့	hng	voiceless velar nasal; no English equivalent. In the pronunciation of this sound, the breath expelled quietly through the nose just before the <i>ng</i> sound begins.

### *Labial glides*

ဝ	w	plain labial glide; like <i>w</i> in English <i>win</i> .
ဝ့	hw	voiceless labial glide; like <i>wh</i> in English <i>what</i> ..

### *Palatal glide*

ရ/ဝ	y	palatal glide; like <i>y</i> in English <i>you</i> .
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### *Alveolar lateral*

လ	l	plain alveolar lateral; like <i>l</i> in English <i>land</i> .
လ့	hl	voiceless alveolar lateral; no English equivalent. In the pronunciation of this sound, the breath expelled quietly just before the <i>l</i> sound begins.

The consonant *r* is very rare in Burmese, and usually appears in loan words. When it does appear the Burmese letter ရ is used to represent the *r* sound.

### Medial Consonants

Burmese has two medial consonants -w- and -y- written as ဝ and ယ respectively. Medial -w- can follow all the consonants. But consonants that palatal glide -y- ယ follow are restricted to *p*, *hp*, *b*, *m*, *hm*, *l*, *hl*.

### Final Consonants

The Burmese writing system has four final stopped consonants (က, ဇ, ခ, ဝ). But in modern colloquial Burmese, these final consonants have merged into a glottal stop, which is marked in these lessons with " ' ", e.g. ကပ် *ka'* 'stick'. When these consonants appear word-finally, there is a marker called အ သတ် *a-tha'* ("killer mark") on top of these consonants, as in က်, ဇ်, ခ်, ဝ်. Similarly, the Burmese writing system has four nasal final consonants. But in modern spoken Burmese, only the vowels are pronounced with a nasalized sound (aka nasalized vowels) when the word has a nasal final, e.g. ကင် *kin* "to roast." This nasalized sound is represented in these lessons with a final -n.

### Vowels and Tones

It seems best to describe the writing systems of vowels and tones together in Burmese since the system links the description of vowels and tones. Burmese has six monophthongal vowels and three diphthongal vowels. It also has three tones in smooth syllables and a stopped tone (a word that ends with a glottal stop). These tones are usually called Level tone (unmarked in our romanization), Heavy tone (marked in our romanization with colon, e.g. *hka:* 'bitter'), Creaky tone (marked in our romanization with a period, e.g. *hka.* "cost"), and Stop tone (marked in our romanization with apostrophe, e.g. *yei hka'* 'draw water'). The chart below describes how the tone is marked in accordance with the vowels and diphthong.

Vowel	Level tone	Heavy tone	Creaky tone
a (low central)	ာ a	ား a:	(unmarked) a.
e (mid front)	ေ e	ေး e:	ေ့ e.
i (high front)	ိ i	ိး i:	ိ့ i.
o (mid back)	ေ နှစ် / ဓာတ် o	ေ ဘုံ / ဓာတ် o:	ေ ဘုံ့ / ဓာတ် o.
u (high back)	ု u	ုး u:	ု့ u.
ei (diphthong)	ေ ei	ေ ဘုံ ei:	ေ ဘုံ့ ei.

For syllables with nasalized vowels, the following chart is drawn to indicate the correspondence between tones and its vowels.

Nasalized vowels	Level tone	Heavy tone	Creaky tone
an	$\text{Ḷ} / \text{Ḷ̃}$ an	$\text{Ḷ̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃}$ an:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃}$ an.
in	$\text{Ḷ̃}$ in	$\text{Ḷ̃̃}$ in:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃}$ in.
un	$\text{Ḷ̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃}$ un	$\text{Ḷ̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃}$ un:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃}$ un.
ain	$\text{Ḷ̃̃}$ ain	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃}$ ain:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃}$ ain.
aun	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃}$ aun	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃}$ aun:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃}$ aun.
ein	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃}$ ein	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃}$ ein:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃̃}$ ein.
oun	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃}$ oun	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃̃}$ oun:	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃̃̃}$ oun.

For a syllable that ends with glottal stop, there are three possible nuclear vowels and a diphthong, as shown in the chart below.

Vowels	Stop final
a	$\text{Ḷ} / \text{Ḷ̃}$ a'
e	$\text{Ḷ̃̃}$ e'
u	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃} / \text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃}$ u'
ai	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃}$ ai'
au	$\text{Ḷ̃̃̃̃̃}$

### *Junctural voicing*

Junctural voicing is a phenomenon where certain consonants change their form from aspirated/plain voiceless consonants into voiced consonants, i.e. voiceless obstruents become voiced by a process “junctural voicing”. For example, voiceless consonants *p* or *hp* may change into a voiced consonant *b* depending on a context. This voicing has many phonological conditions (cf. VanBik 2004) and it affects the initial voiceable consonants of both content words (e.g. nouns, verbs, etc.) and function words (e.g. post position markers, particles, etc.). The voiceable initial consonants and their voiced counterparts are as follows (cf. Okell 1969, Vol.-I:12):

voiceable	(plain)	k	t	p	c	s	th
	(aspirate)	hk	ht	hp	hc	hs	
voiced counterpart		g	d	b	j	z	dh

Note that this voicing is indicated only in romanization, not in the Burmese writing system.

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